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Using Multiple Contextual Data Repositories to Enhance Searching

A method is described to use multiple contextual data search applications to allow a user to search a smaller data repository with a greater likelihood of a match by limiting the scope of the search to a particular data repository which contains only certain documents. A common set of search commands are translated into the particular contextual search program's commands by defining the process parameters of each contextual search program's commands. The common set of commands are used to access one or all of the data repositories. The contextual data repository is often large and comprises many different categories of information. There could be several different contextual data search applications that a contextual data repository might use. Each one has its own data formats and processing parameters. A user would like to file a document into the host library by submitting a generic request for contextual data extraction as well as a user specific request.

The method described enables the user to name, create and search a data repository using a generic search strategy. In addition, the system can be set up with one or more contextual data repositories per supported contextual data search application, a default contextual data repository and maintenance capabilities. A library server is provided to supplement the document interchange architecture to support contextual data repository creation, maintenance and searching. The server extracts data from existing documents and stores the data in a separate format for efficient searching. The data extracted from the document is considered as an entry in a contextual data repository. In addition to the extracted data, the library server also stores process parameters for contextual data searching as described above. These process parameters are employed to translate the generic search strategy into the specific format of the particular data repository. Each document can be searched by name or key word. This method avoids the overhead associated with searching a data repository consisting of the entire text of a document; rather, the user can organize the information for any document into different categories that can be stored in particular data repositories and accessed quickly.

The advantage of this method is to shield the user from specifying which data repository to search each time the user invokes the system and to optimize search time by organizing the information the user frequently searches into separate, default data repository for the user. The unique user repositories allow the user to search more quickly than trying to search the entire system data repository. The documents can be new or existing documents and the organization is designed to allow the user the maximum flexibility in organizing the data repositories for searching.

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Searching with Contextual Search Commands and Interchange Document Profile Information

A method is described to use interchange document profile (IDP) information and keywords to perform contextual data searches of data repositories. IDP information comprises document name, author, subject and other descriptor information associated with each document. A common set of search commands is translated into the particular contextual search program's commands by defining the process parameters of each contextual search program's commands. The common set of commands are used to access one or all of the data repositories. The contextual data repository is often large and comprises many different categories of information. There could be several different contextual data search applications that a contextual data repository might use. Each one has its own data formats and processing parameters. A user would like to search a document by submitting a generic search request including IDP information.

The method described enables the user to name, create and search a data repository using a generic search strategy. In addition, the system can be set up with one or more contextual data repositories per supported contextual data search application, a default contextual data repository and maintenance capabilities. A library server is provided to supplement the document interchange architecture to support contextual data repository creation, maintenance and searching. The server extracts data from existing documents and stores the data in a separate format for efficient searching. The data extracted from the document is considered as an entry in a contextual data repository. In addition to the extracted data, the library server also stores process parameters for contextual data searching as described above. These process parameters are employed to translate the generic search strategy into the specific format of the particular data repository. Each data repository can be searched by name, IDP information or key word. This method avoids the overhead associated with searching a data repository consisting of the entire text of a document; rather, the user can organize the information for any document into different categories that can be stored in particular data repositories and accessed quickly.

The advantage of this method is to allow the user to include IDP information in the generic search strategy and shield the user from specifying which data repository to search each time the user invokes the system and to optimize search time by organizing the information the user frequently searches into separate, default data repository for the user. The unique user repositories allow the user to search more quickly than trying to search the entire system data repository. The documents can be new or existing documents and the organization is designed to allow the user the maximum flexibility in organizing the data repositories for searching.

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